

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 09858

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KANEMARU SHIN) MARR, JA, US
SUBJECT: VISIT OF JAPANESE DEFENSE MINISTER

1. MINISTER OF STATE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF JAPAN
DEFENSE AGENCY SHIN KANEMARU WILL VISIT BRUSSELS AND BONN
PRIOR TO HIS JUNE 18 ARRIVAL US TO MEET WITH SECRETARY
BROWN AND VISIT MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. ARRANGEMENTS
FOR EUROPEAN LEG OF TRIP ARE BEING MADE THROUGH
FOREIGN MINISTRY. KANEMARU IS SCHEDULED TO CALL
ON NATO SEC GEN AND BELGIAN DEFMIN ON JUNE 14 AND, WE
UNDERSTAND, ON GENERAL HAIG ON THE 15TH. ON THE 16TH,
HE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH FRG DEFMIN AND VISIT FRG
ARMY FORCES AT KOBLENZ.

2. KANEMARU, 62, WAS APPOINTED JDA DIRGEN IN NOVEMBER
1977. HE HAS SERVED IN THE LOWER HOUSE SINCE 1958 AND
IS AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE FACTION OF FORMER PRIME
MINISTER TANAKA. KANEMARU IS PROUD OF THE FACT HE
WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN MOVING REVISED US-JAPAN SECURITY
TREATY THROUGH DIET IN 1960 AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN
ARRANGING FOR SATELLITE TV COVERAGE OF 1964 TOKYO
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OLYMPICS.

3. A CURRENT THEME BOTHERING JAPANESE IS THEIR PERCEPTION
OF US EMPHASIS ON NATO AT EXPENSE OF ASIA. RECENT PUBLIC
POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS SUCH AS SECRETARY BROWN'S LOS ANGELES
SPEECH, DR. BRZEZINSKI'S APRIL 27 JAPAN SOCIETY SPEECH IN
NEW YORK, ETC., AS WELL AS MONDALE'S ASIAN TRIP AND HIGH-

LEVEL CONSULTATIONS IN TOKYO AND WASHINGTON HAVE DONE MUCH TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT. THERE MAY NEVERTHELESS BE OCCASION TO NOTE IN THIS CONTEXT THAT NEGLECT OF NATO DURING VIETNAM WAR, AND INCREASE IN SOVIET THREAT TO CENTRAL EUROPE HAVE CALLED FOR COOPERATIVE EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN NATO BUT THIS IS NOT BEING DONE AT ASIAN EXPENSE. JAPANESE ARE CONCERNED THAT MOST US RESERVES ARE NATO DESIGNATED; IF QUESTION ARISES IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO NOTE THAT REGARDLESS OF CONTINGENCY PLANS, WE RETAIN FLEXIBILITY TO USE CONTINENTAL FORCES WHERE NEEDED.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT KANEMARU IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT CONSULTATIVE MECHANISMS THE US HAS WITH NATO AS WELL AS WITH INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND THEIR POSSIBLE APPLICATION TO US-JAPAN CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. AS AN OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATE OF JAPAN'S ASSUMING MORE OF THE COSTS OF THE MAINTENANCE OF US FORCES IN JAPAN, HE WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED IN NATO COUNTRIES' CONTRIBUTIONS TO US PRESENCE. ALTHOUGH HIS POSITIVE STATEMENTS ON COST-SHARING HAVE INVITED VIRTUALLY NO CRITICISM FROM MEDIA, THEY HAVE CAUSED NERVOUSNESS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH FEELS HE IS GETTING TOO FAR OUT IN FRONT ON AN ISSUE WHERE MUCH PREPARATORY WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE AND OTHER GOJ AGENCIES REMAIN TO BE BROUGHT ABOARD.

5. WE RECOMMEND THAT KANEMARU, WHO WE REGARD AS FIRM
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SUPPORTER OF US-JAPAN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AND OF INCREASED COST-SHARING, RECEIVE AS FRANK A BRIEFING AS POSSIBLE DURING MEETING WITH GENERAL HAIG. IN DISCUSSING COST SHARING, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO UNDERLINE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SITUATIONS IN EUROPE AND JAPAN, I.E., WEST EUROPEANS ARE FACED WITH CLEAR AND WELL-DEFINED THREAT, SPEND CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN JAPAN ON OWN DEFENSE FORCES, ETC. MANSFIELD

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